

the new ASEAN Charter, the Charter “will make ASEAN a more rules-based organization and . . . will put in place a system of compliance monitoring and, most importantly, a system of compulsory dispute settlement for noncompliance that will apply to all ASEAN agreements”;

Whereas upon its accession to ASEAN, Burma agreed to subscribe or accede to all ASEAN declarations, treaties, and agreements;

Whereas 2007 marks the 30th anniversary of the relationship and dialogue between the United States and ASEAN;

Whereas the Senate passed legislation in the 109th Congress that would authorize the establishment of the position of United States Ambassador for ASEAN Affairs, and the President announced in 2006 that an Ambassador would be appointed; and

Whereas ASEAN member nations and the United States share common concerns across a broad range of issues, including accelerated economic growth, social progress, cultural development, and peace and stability in the Southeast Asia region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) joins the foreign ministers of member nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) that have expressed concern over the human rights situation in Burma;

(2) encourages ASEAN to take more substantial steps to ensure a peaceful transition to democracy in Burma;

(3) welcomes steps by ASEAN to strengthen its internal governance through the adoption of a formal ASEAN charter;

(4) urges ASEAN to ensure that all member nations live up to their membership obligations and adhere to ASEAN’s core principles, including respect for and commitment to human rights; and

(5) would welcome a decision by ASEAN, consistent with its core documents and its new charter, to review Burma’s membership in ASEAN and to consider appropriate disciplinary measures, including suspension, until such time as the Government of Burma has demonstrated an improved respect for and commitment to human rights.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution to encourage the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN, to take action to ensure a peaceful transition to democracy in Burma.

In late September, tens of thousands of Burmese citizens, including thousands of Buddhist monks, took to the streets to demand a return to democracy in Burma. Tragically, the world watched in horror as Burma’s military junta implemented a brutal and ruthless crackdown resulting in the death of hundreds and the detention of thousands.

The current Burmese government, the State Peace and Development Council, SPDC, is a military dictatorship that refused to relinquish power even after the Burmese people voted them out in a democratic election in 1990. The winner of that election, the National League for Democracy was not allowed to take power, and its leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, was placed under house arrest, where she remains today.

The world must not stay silent while the people of Burma struggle for democracy and basic human rights. We

have a moral responsibility to speak out for the Burmese people who have been silenced by the junta.

The events of the last several weeks are reminiscent of the crackdown on a similar uprising in the summer of 1988, in which an estimated 3,000 people were killed. Today, the remaining leaders of that uprising, known as “The 88 Generation Students,” issued a letter to the Chairman of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, asking that it “consider suspending the SPDC’s membership in ASEAN if it continues to ignore the requests of the international community.” This resolution echoes that suggestion.

ASEAN has expressed “revulsion” over reports that the SPDC is using deadly force to suppress demonstrators. I appreciate this strong statement. Unfortunately, it is clear that words alone are not enough to force change within Burma. Later this month, ASEAN will hold its regional summit—a prime opportunity for ASEAN to back its words with concrete action.

Yesterday, it was reported that the Buddhist monks were again marching in the streets of Burma in clear defiance of the military junta. It is time for Burma’s neighbors to apply real pressure on the military government so that future violence can be avoided. I urge my colleagues to stand with the people of Burma and support this resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3497. Mr. ALLARD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3963, to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3498. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3963, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3497. Mr. ALLARD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3963, to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title I, add the following:

SEC. 117. TREATMENT OF UNBORN CHILDREN.

(a) CODIFICATION OF CURRENT REGULATIONS.—Section 2110(c)(1) (42 U.S.C. 1397jj(c)(1)) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: “, and includes, at the option of a State, an unborn child. For purposes of the previous sentence, the term ‘unborn child’ means a member of the species *Homo sapiens*, at any stage of development, who is carried in the womb.”

(b) CLARIFICATIONS REGARDING COVERAGE OF MOTHERS.—Section 2103 (42 U.S.C. 1397cc) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) CLARIFICATIONS REGARDING AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE POSTPARTUM SERVICES AND MATERNAL HEALTH CARE.—Any State that provides child health assistance to an unborn child under the option described in section 2110(c)(1) may continue to provide such assistance to the mother, as well as postpartum services, through the end of the month in which the 60-day period (beginning on the last day of pregnancy) ends, in the same manner as such assistance and postpartum services would be provided if provided under the State plan under title XIX, but only if the mother would otherwise satisfy the eligibility requirements that apply under the State child health plan (other than with respect to age) during such period.”

SA 3498. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3963, to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title I, add the following:

SEC. 110. REQUIREMENT THAT INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR CHIP AND EMPLOYER-SPONSORED COVERAGE USE THE EMPLOYER-SPONSORED COVERAGE INSTEAD OF CHIP.

Section 2105(c) (42 U.S.C. 1397ee(c)), as amended by section 601(a)(1), is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(13) REQUIREMENT REGARDING EMPLOYER-SPONSORED COVERAGE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), on and after the date of enactment of the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007, no payment may be made under this title with respect to an individual who is eligible for coverage under a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered through an employer, either as an individual or as part of family coverage.

“(B) STATE OPTION TO OFFER PREMIUM ASSISTANCE FOR HIGH-COST PLANS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an individual who is otherwise eligible for coverage under this title but for the application of subparagraph (A) and who is eligible for high-cost health insurance coverage, a State may elect to offer a premium assistance subsidy for such coverage.

“(ii) AMOUNT.—The amount of a premium assistance subsidy under this paragraph shall be determined by the State but in no case shall exceed the lesser of—

“(I) an amount equal to the value of the coverage under this title that would otherwise apply with respect to the individual but for the application of subparagraph (A); or

“(II) an amount equal to the difference between—

“(aa) the amount of the employee’s share of the premium costs for the high-cost health insurance coverage (for the family or the individual, as the case may be); and

“(bb) an amount equal to 20 percent of the total premium costs for such coverage, including both the employer and employee share, (for the family or the individual, as the case may be).

“(C) HIGH-COST HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘high cost health insurance coverage’ means a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered through an employer in which the employee is required to pay more than 20 percent of the premium costs.

“(D) TREATMENT AS CHILD HEALTH ASSISTANCE.—Expenditures for the provision of premium assistance subsidies under this paragraph shall be considered child health assistance described in paragraph (1)(C) of subsection (a) for purposes of making payments under that subsection.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 1, 2007, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, in order to consider pending nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the Session of the Senate in order to conduct a hearing on the nominations of Gregory Jacob, of New Jersey, to be Solicitor of Labor for the U.S. Department of Labor, and the nomination of Howard Radzely, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor for the U.S. Department of Labor. The hearing will commence on Thursday, November 1, 2007, at 10 a.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 1, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in order to conduct an oversight hearing on the impact of the Flood Control Act of 1944 on Indian Tribes along the Missouri River.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to conduct an Executive Business Meeting on Thursday, November 1, 2007, at 10 a.m. in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Agenda

I. Bills: S. 1946, Public Corruption Prosecution Improvements Act (Leahy, Cornyn, Sessions); S. 2168, Identity Theft Enforcement and Restitution Act (Leahy, Specter, Durbin, Grassley); and S. 352, Sunshine in the Courtroom Act of 2007 (Grassley, Schumer, Leahy, Specter, Graham, Feingold, Cornyn, Durbin).

II. Nominations: John Daniel Tinder, to be United States Circuit Judge for

the Seventh Circuit and Julie L. Myers, of Kansas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 1, 2007 at 2:30 p.m. in order to hold a closed hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, FEDERAL SERVICES, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 1, 2007, at 2 p.m. in order to conduct a hearing entitled “Small Business Administration: Is the 7 (a) Program Achieving Measurable Outcomes?”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PRIVATE SECTOR AND CONSUMER SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works, Subcommittee on Private Sector and Consumer Solutions to Global Warming and Wildlife Protection, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 1, 2007, at 9 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in order to hold a business meeting to consider the America's Climate Security Act of 2007, S. 2191.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANDERS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

APOLOGIES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, first of all, let me apologize to everyone for having a little downtime. I have been in a meeting for a couple hours with the Speaker and other Members and it was fairly intense and I could not break away to do this. I apologize for keeping everyone waiting.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2419

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, No-

vember 5, following the period of morning business, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 339, H.R. 2419, the farm bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EVENT FOR SENATORS AND SPOUSES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there will be no vote on Monday. I remind everyone we do have an event—and people have spent a lot of time on this event—for Senators and their spouses Monday night. I would hope people would be considerate and keep that in mind. People have gone to a lot of trouble for that event, and I hope people will not let this no-vote day that is relatively new on the horizon stand in the way of attending this event and disappointing a lot of people who have worked hard to make this event for the spouses of Members. We do not get together that often. It will be a very nice evening for all of us.

CHARLES GEORGE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2546 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2546) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Asheville, North Carolina, as the “Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2546) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2293 AND S. 2294

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding there are two bills at the desk, and I ask unanimous consent for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bills by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2293) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the individual alternative minimum tax, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2294) to strengthen immigration enforcement and border security and for other purposes.